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SOME FRIENDSHIPS ARE WORTH CHEERING FOR!
myst

India-Pak DGMO talks rescheduled to 5 pm

- Ceasefire, cross-border security on agenda
- PM chairs meeting with top Govt. functionaries

Prime Minister Modi chaired a key meeting at his residence this morning where Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff and Chiefs of all three Services were present.

New Delhi, May 12 (Agencies)- The scheduled meeting between India's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lieutenant General Rajeev Ghai and Pakistan's DGMO Major General Kashif Chaudhry, originally planned for 12 noon today, has been postponed to 5 pm.

Both sides are expected to discuss the ceasefire agreement reached on the evening of May 10, aimed at halting all military operations — by land, air and sea — after four days of heightened tensions marked by drone activity and missile exchanges across the border.

This will be the second DGMO-level communication since tensions escalated. The first took place at 3 pm on Saturday (May 10), when Pakistan's DGMO Major General Chaudhry appealed for a ceasefire during his conversation with Lieutenant General Ghai.

According to Government sources, **India will demand that Pakistan cease cross-border infiltration attempts, shut down terrorist launch pads, halt drone incursions and stop the aerial dropping of arms, ammunition and narcotics.**

The meeting will primarily focus on next steps to maintain the fragile peace along the Indo-Pak border. Following several days of shelling and drone attacks, the Indian Army confirmed that Sunday night (May 11) was the first peaceful night in days, with no explosions or projectile activity recorded. However, some schools near the border remain closed as a precaution.

On Sunday, India issued a formal "hotline" communication to Pakistan, flagging ceasefire violations that occurred the previous day and warning of retaliatory measures should such breaches continue. A senior Indian Army officer noted that the message reflected New Delhi's firm resolve. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Pakistan military denied any breach of the ceasefire agreement.

PM chairs high-level meeting

Ahead of the DGMO meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting at his residence with top Government functionaries this morning, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and all three Service Chiefs.

(See TALKS on page 6)

Virat Kohli bids adieu to Test cricket

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude — for the game, for the people I shared the field with and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way."

New Delhi, May 12 (UNI)- In a heartfelt message posted on social media, former India captain Virat Kohli this morning announced his retirement from Test cricket, bringing down the curtain on a 14-year-long red-ball career that redefined the format for a generation of fans.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket," Kohli wrote on Instagram. "Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life."

The 35-year-old batsman, who made his Test debut in June 2011 against the West Indies, described the longest format as "deeply personal", highlighting the "quiet grind" and "small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever."

Kohli, who led India to the top of the ICC Test rankings and was instrumental in shaping the team's aggressive and fitness-driven culture, said stepping away from the format "is not easy — but it feels right."

(See KOHLI on page 6)

TEASER

By N. Prakash

CM Siddaramaiah gives credit to defence forces

Mysuru, May 12 (BLU&VNS)- The credit for the success of 'Operation Sindoor' must go to the Indian defence forces and not to political parties, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Speaking to mediapersons on his arrival at H.D. Kote to take part in 134th Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti and unveiling of Dr. Ambedkar's bust this morning, he said that the Central Government should have convened an all party meeting before announcing ceasefire as the matter was of national importance.

Pak citizens have returned

Answering to a question on return of Pakistani citizens from Karnataka, Siddaramaiah said all of them, except three children who were under the age of six years in Mysuru, had returned to their country. "There is a technical issue with respect to return of three children as the mother belongs to Mysuru and the husband to Pakistan," he said.

Second year celebration

CM Siddaramaiah also announced that State Government will hold grand celebrations for completing two years in office. "We have delivered whatever we had promised to the people. Ours is the only Government which has delivered what was promised," he added.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 12th May 2025

Special prayer for soldiers

Members of Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO), Mysore, in a gesture towards Indian soldiers guarding the nation, held a special prayer in front of Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple in city recently. JITO Mysore Chairman Vinod Bakliwal, former Chairman Kantilal Jain, Vice-Chairman Bherulal Pitlia, Chief Secretary Gautam Salecha, former Chief Secretary Deepak Bohra, Treasurer Nemichand Shrimal, Secretaries Prem Palrecha and Ramesh Navlakha, Joint Treasurer Gautam Baghmar, JITO Youth Chairman Siddharth Kataria, Akshay Vanigota, Gajraj Pagaria and others were present.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

DON'T BE IMPRISONED BY YOUR SUFFERING: ***Buddha was not a god. He was a human being just as you and me, and he suffered just as we do. If we go to the Buddha with our hearts open, he will look at us, his eyes full of compassion, and say, "Because there is suffering in your heart, it is possible for you to enter my heart."***

For forty-five years, the Buddha said over and over again, "I teach only suffering and the transformation of suffering." When we recognise and acknowledge our own suffering, the Buddha *— which means the Buddha in us —* ***will look at it, discover what has brought it about, and prescribe a course of action that can transform it into peace, joy and liberation. Suffering is the means the Buddha used to liberate himself, and it is also how we can become free.***

The ocean of suffering is immense, but if you turn around, you can see the land. The seed of suffering in you may be strong, but don't wait until you have no more suffering before allowing yourself to be happy. When one tree in the garden is sick, you have to care for it. But don't overlook the healthy trees. Even with pain in your heart, you can enjoy the many wonders of life — beautiful sunsets, smiles of a child, flowers and trees. To suffer is not enough. Please don't be imprisoned by your suffering.

If you have experienced hunger, you know that having food is a miracle. If you have suffered from cold, you know the preciousness of warmth. When you have suffered, you know how to appreciate elements of paradise that are present.

Don't ignore your suffering, but don't forget to enjoy wonders of life, for your sake and for benefit of many human beings.

I grew up in the time of war. There was destruction all around — children, adults, values, and a whole country. As a young person, I suffered a lot. Once the door of awareness has been opened, you cannot close it. Wounds of war in me are still not healed. There are nights I lie awake and embrace my people, my country, and the whole planet with my mindful breathing.

Without suffering, you cannot grow. Without suffering, you cannot get the peace and joy you deserve. Please don't run away from your suffering. Embrace and cherish it. Go to the Buddha, sit with him and show him your pain. He will look at you with loving-kindness, compassion and mindfulness, and show you ways to embrace your suffering and look deeply into it. With understanding and compassion, you will be able to heal wounds in your heart and wounds in the world. The Buddha called suffering a Noble Truth, because our suffering has capacity of showing us the path to liberation. Embrace your suffering, and let it reveal to you the way to peace.

— Thich Nhat Hanh in The Times of India

NEWS SPARKLERS

Woman collects 60,000 vintage tin boxes

Grand-Hallet: The colourful tins piled high around Belgian collector Yvette Dardenne used to contain goods ranging from chocolates, toffees, coffee and rice to tobacco, talc and shoe polish and come from as far away as India.

Yvette Dardenne, 83, has accumulated almost 60,000 vintage tin boxes from all over the world since starting her collection some 30 years ago.

The collection, which now occupies four houses, all began with a Cote d'Or chocolate box illustrated with a painting of a blonde girl in a blue hat, Dardenne said, standing amid the carefully arranged tin boxes in the medieval watermill she owns next to her home.

One of Dardenne's greatest treasures is an intricately patterned box from 1868 showing an emblem with two horses on top, built to hold biscuits made by Huntley & Palmers of Reading, England.

Player throws ball over 123 ft to set world record

Kent: An Irish soccer star with famously powerful throwing skills broke the Guinness World Record for the farthest distance soccer throw-in.

Megan Campbell, 31, a player for the London City Lionesses, based in Kent, England, performed an overhead throw and launched a soccer ball a distance of 123 feet and 2 inches to claim the title.

Her throw was nearby twice the length of a bowling alley lane, and more than 40 feet farther than the length of a blue whale.

Campbell had to beat Guinness World Records' goal of 114 feet and 9 inches to become the first woman to hold the female version of the record.

"I think my record might stand for about a week until someone gets hold of the information," Campbell joked.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Simple way to avoid iron deficiency anemia is to eat food rich in iron like green leafy vegetables, broccoli, fruits, whole grains and red meat.

By Dr. Giripunja M. - Consultant - Haematology - Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Vijaya Dabbe Literary Award for Savitha Nagabushan

Mysuru, May 12- Noted writer Savitha Nagabushan has been chosen for the prestigious 'Vijaya Dabbe' Literary Award (2025) for her work 'Dinada Prarthane,' a collection of poems. The award will be presented at a programme to be held in city on June 1.

Vijaya Dabbe

Savitha Nagabushan

Savitha's work was published by Shivamogga-based Nudi Prakashana in 2024.

Samata Adhyayana Kendra, Mysuru, which had instituted the award in 2022, had invited entries from women writers, following which 110 works were received from writers and publishers.

A Selection Committee comprising veteran poets C. Sarvamangala, G.P. Basavaraju and Dr. M.S. Veda selected Savitha Nagabushan's work "Dinada Prarthane" for this year's award.

Profile: Born in 1961 at Chikkamagalur, Savitha had her education at Shivamogga and got her Post-Graduate degree in History. She, along with her writer husband D.S. Nagabushan brought out a newspaper titled 'Hosa Manushya.'

Savitha, after serving in the Postal Department for over 20 years, took voluntary retirement and is currently residing at Shivamogga. She has many works to her credit including 'Holemagalu,' 'Jaatreyalli Shiva', 'Darushana,' 'Karunalu,' 'Devarige Hodevu' and 'Kademaatu.'

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **92.62 feet**	Today's level **2,262.99 feet**	Today's level **2,831.63 feet**
Last year's level **79.70 feet**	Last year's level **2,257.65 feet**	Last year's level **2,823.14 feet**
Yesterday's level **93.10 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,263.24 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,831.75 feet**
Today's Inflow **77 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **98 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **126 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **3,492 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **1,200 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **100 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- ***The colossal squid, a larger relative of the giant squid, is believed to have the largest eyes of any living creature, measuring over 27 centimetres in diameter, roughly the size of a soccer ball.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

When we celebrated the 100th birthday of my wife's grandmother, one of the congratulatory telegrams was from a 94-year-old friend. As it was read aloud, grandmother exclaimed: "My goodness, she is still alive?!"

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 84.71
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 112.53
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 23.06
1 Euro	= Rs. 95.03

VOICE OF THE READER

Insightful article on Pakistani Terrorism

Sir,

I recently read K.B. Ganapathy's article titled ***'Final Solution to the Evils of Pakistani Terrorism'*** published under his *Abracadabra* column in *Star of Mysore* dated Apr. 29, 2025. This is to express my sincere appreciation for KBG's incisive analysis of this critical issue.

The article provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges posed by cross-border terrorism and offers ideas on potential solutions. The clarity with which KBG articulated the complexities of the situation and the urgency of addressing these threats is commendable.

In the light of the recent tragic events, such as the Pahalgam terror attack on Apr. 22, 2025, KBG's insights are even more pertinent. The loss of 26 innocent lives in that attack underscores the pressing need for effective strategies to combat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of all citizens.

—Honganour S. Krishna
New York, USA
1.5.2025

Beware of the wounded tiger!

Sir,

At last, on 7.5.2025 the Indian Armed Forces have struck a meagre 9 out of 21 militant facilities in Pakistan and PoK. All patriotic Indians were overjoyed with this news (except some Opposition politicians).

But when I read ***'A crimson poem — Beware of the wounded tiger'*** by K.B. Ganapathy, Founder-Editor of *Star of Mysore*, on its front page the same day, I realised the futility of potential benefit of this military strike.

The terror facilities will be shifted to a new place and this saga will continue. As long as we don't remove the terror tree with its roots, it will grow again. This is possible for our Army.

In *Bhagavad Gita*, Lord Krishna says to Arjuna that he has to fight the war to establish 'Dharma' even if there is huge causality.

—Dr. D.N. Swamy
Mysuru
8.5.2025

Art without barriers...

Celebrating autism with colours, vibrancy

Mysuru, May 12 (BCT)- In a touching tribute to Autism Awareness Month, Youth For Seva (YFS), Mysore Chapter, organised a drawing and colouring event that brought together children with intellectual disabilities, spirited volunteers and compassionate change-makers under one inclusive roof.

The event was a vibrant celebration of creativity, dignity and the limitless power of art and saw the enthusiastic participation of 21 children from seven institutions dedicated to the care and development of children with special needs.

These included Arunodhaya Visesha Makala Shale, Hemavathi School (Basanth Nagar), Devdhan Foundation, Rotary Mysore, JSS Sahana, and Beautiful Gate. Each child, with joy and imagination flowing freely, expressed themselves through art, using colours as their voice and creativity as their language.

Chief guest Anuradha Nandakumar, theatre artiste, activist and proprietor of 'Namana Production,' moved the audience with her powerful presence. Speaking not only as a dignitary but also as a parent of a 40-year-old intellectually disabled youth employed with Vinyas Technology, she highlighted the importance of dignity and purposeful engagement for all individuals.

Pratibha Gururaj, guest of honour and President of Spoorthi Mahila Balaga, sponsored the event and shared words of encouragement. Badri Narayan, engineer, author and activist from Dignity Foundation NGO, offered thoughtful support and motivation.

Vasudev Bhat, Secretary of Vijaya Vittala Vidyashala and Advisory Board Member, sponsored the venue, enabling an accessible space for the event.

The programme was anchored by C.V. Keerthi, Lead Coordinator of YFS Mysore. A special highlight was the support from eight engineering students from NIE, Mysuru and a psychology student from Christ University, Bengaluru. Their enthusiasm, empathy and interaction added a unique spark to the event, creating an uplifting environment for the children.

This gathering was more than an art event — it was a celebration of neuro-diversity, inclusion and community spirit. Bursting with colour, laughter and emotion, the children's artworks reflected individuality, imagination, and the message that creativity transcends boundaries.

MYRA School of Business holds 11th PGDM Convocation

Mysuru, May 12 (BCT)- The MYRA School of Business (MSB), Mysuru, hosted its 11th Convocation Ceremony for the Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) Class of 2025 recently.

The event brought together trustees, governing board members, faculty, non-faculty and families to celebrate the achievements of the graduates.

The diverse student group from across the country has secured placements with reputed companies such as HDFC Bank, Greenlam Industries, Anandrathi, and Xpheno, among others.

Puneet Pushkarna, General Partner at Solmark and Co-founder of TechSpan, was the chief guest. In his keynote address, he urged students to view success not merely as a career milestone, but as a call to personal growth and social contribution.

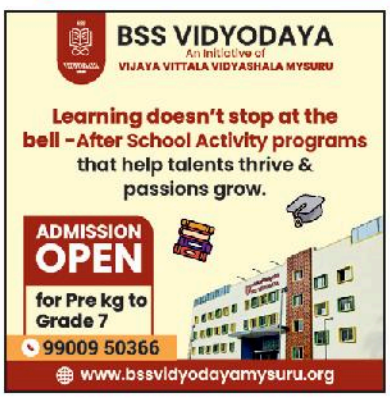
"Don't just strive to be successful," he said, "strive to be significant." Emphasising purpose, compassion and resilience, he encouraged graduates to "do well by doing good" and integrate success with values to create a lasting impact.

Chairman of the Board of Governors and Dean, Dr. Ramasastry Ambarish, outlined key initiatives at MSB, including Digital Mastery, industry-aligned courses, BFSI and HR finishing tracks, and new certification collaborations with CII Logistics Institute at IIT Madras and NISM.

He also announced the upcoming launch of a startup incubator under the Pratyagra Foundation. Highlighting MSB's emphasis on "anti-fragility," ethics and leadership, Dr. Ambarish urged students to stay adaptable, value integrity, and lead change.

Managing Trustee Kantharaj Urs, in his welcome address, reflected on the transformative journey of the graduating class and the values that will shape their future: empathy, adaptability, and the courage to lead with purpose. He reminded students that success lies not just in achievement, but in contribution.

Student speakers and MYRAcles R. Monika and Shivangi Bharti delivered the valedictory address, expressing gratitude to faculty, staff and families. Both graduates were also inducted into the Honour Board for Academic Excellence. The event marked a commitment to shaping thoughtful, ethical, and impactful business leaders of tomorrow.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NEWS BRIEFS

Natl. Technology Day at CFTRI

CSIR-CFTRI has organised National Technology Day 2025 celebration at its Cheluvamba Hall tomorrow (May 13) at 3.15 pm. TiE Mysuru Chapter President Bhaskar Kalale will be the chief guest. CFTRI Director Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh will preside.

ICAI postpones CA exams

The CA exams, which were postponed in view of security situation in the country, will now be conducted from May 16 to 24, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) announced on Saturday night. The CA Final, Intermediate and INTT-AT (PQC) examinations, earlier scheduled to be conducted from May 9 to 14, will now be held from May 16 to 24, the ICAI said in a notification.

Pratibha Puraskar

Mysuru Mattu Chamarajanagar Zilla Veerashaiva - Lingayat Mathadhipatigala Goshti, located at Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Circle, has invited applications from meritorious students of Veerashaiva-Lingayat community students from Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts, who have scored high marks in SSLC/10th standard (2024-25) of State and Central syllabus, for presentation of Pratibha Puraskar. The students should apply at the Goshti office along with a copy of their markscard and other necessary documents, before June 30. For further details, contact Mob: 94490-30588.

Mysuru District Journalists Association (MDJA), having office at 5th Cross, Thyagaraja Road, near Akkana Balaga School, Agrahara, has invited applications from meritorious children of Journalists, who have scored high marks in SSLC and PUC (2024-25), for presentation of Pratibha Puraskar. The last date to apply, along with a copy of markscard and other documents, is May 25. For details, contact K. Deepak (97415-11340) or Dharmapura Narayan (98456-53548), according to a press release.

Ph.D awardee

B. Mangala Shekhar has been awarded Ph.D in Dance by the University of Mysore for her thesis "Analytical Study to Assess the Effect of Angika Abhinaya On Holistic Health with Special Reference to Mental Faculties vis-a-vis Memory" submitted under the guidance of Dr. Sheela H.K. Shridhar.

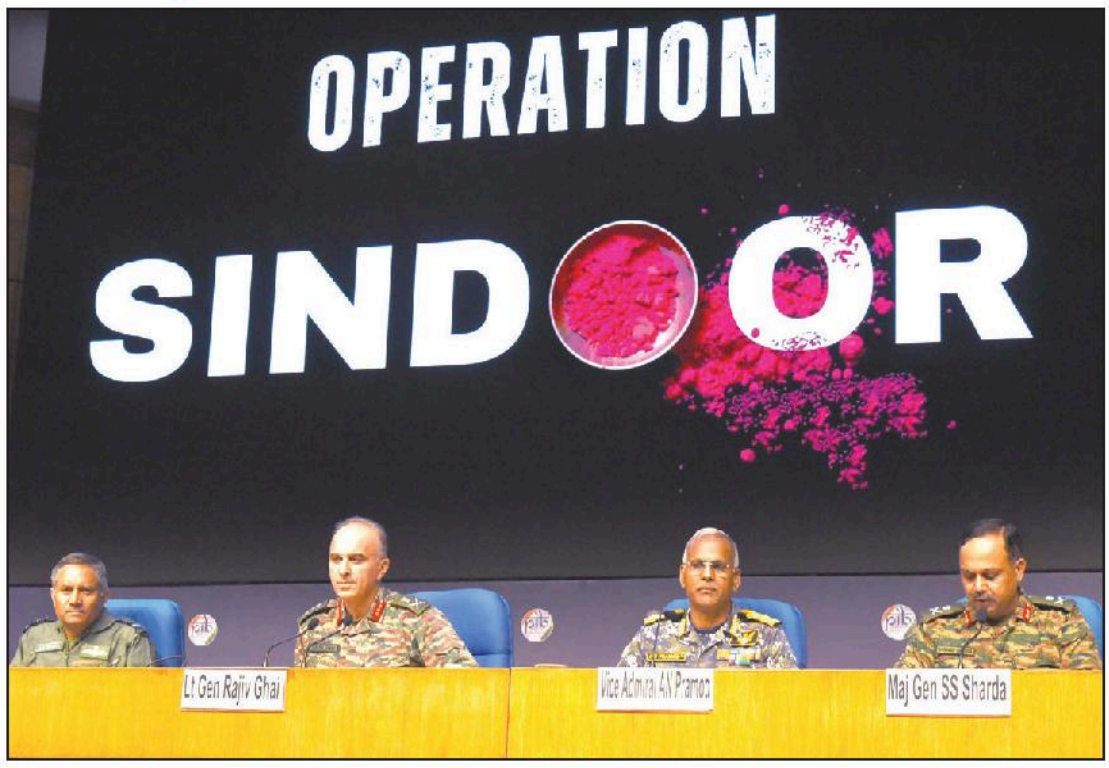
40 Pak soldiers, 100 terrorists killed; drones, jets downed

High-value terrorists and those involved in IC 814 plane hijacking, Pulwama blast eliminated

New Delhi, May 12 (Agencies)- The Pakistani military lost approximately 35 to 40 personnel in artillery and small arms firing on the Line of Control (LoC) between May 7 and May 10, the Indian Armed Forces said in a press briefing yesterday.

In the early hours of May 7, India launched Operation Sindoor, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The operation came in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22 that claimed 26 lives.

Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt. Gen. Rajiv Ghai, Maj. Gen. S.S. Shada and Director General Air (Operations) IAF and Vice Admiral A.N. Pramod held the press briefing on Operation Sindoor and its impact. High-value targets such as Yusuf Azhar, Abdul Malik Rauf and Mudasir Ahmed, who were involved in the hijacking of IC 814 and the Pulwama blast, were eliminated during Operation Sindoor.



FROM LEFT: ***Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, Director General of Military Operations Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Director General Air (Operations) (DGAO), IAF, Vice Admiral A.N. Pramod and Major General S.S. Sharda briefing the media on 'Operation Sindoor' at National Media Centre in New Delhi yesterday.***

Precision strikes

"Our aim on the 7th of May was to target terrorists and their infrastructure, not any other infrastructure, especially not Pakistani civilian or military establishments, and we achieved this with precision. However, on the evening of 7th May, we were subjected to a wave of Pakistani unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and small drones, which targeted both our civilian and military areas. They were successfully intercepted. While three drones managed to land, they caused minimal damage," said the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt. Gen. Rajiv Ghai.

Indian forces also clarified that they didn't count the Pakistani military casualties in the initial part of the conflict since only terrorists were the target.

"The key difference here is that we targeted terrorists, whereas the Pakistani response focused on our civilians and military infrastructure — a move that demands a response. In retaliation, we struck radar installations near Lahore and close to Gujranwala. Yet, we want to emphasise that escalation is not our goal. Our conflict is with terrorists, not with the Pakistani military establishment," said Lt. Gen. Ghai.

India lost five soldiers

The DGMO said India lost five soldiers — two from the IAF on ground duties and three from the Army. Asked about any loss of air assets such as fighter jets suffered by India, the Director General of Air Operations, Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, said, "We are in a combat scenario, losses are a part of combat."

While the IAF officer did not deny losses, he refused to divulge details, saying, "At this point, I would not like to comment on that because we are still in a combat situation. If I comment on anything, it will only be an advantage to the adversary."

All pilots are back home

"All our pilots are back home," he said. "We have achieved our objective of decimating the terrorist camps," he added.

To a question, Air Marshal Bharti said India downed a few Pakistani planes but refused to hazard a guess on the numbers. "Their planes were prevented from crossing our border. So we do not have the wreckage with us, but we have downed a few planes," he said.

The DGMO said, Pakistan would have to pay a heavy price if it resorted to any misadventure. "We have thus far exercised immense restraint and our actions have been focused, measured and non-escalatory. However, any threat to our citizens' sovereignty, territorial integrity and safety will be met with decisive force," he said.

The Indian Government has clarified, both for the world and Pakistan, that it went for the "snake's head and not foot soldiers" this time, demonstrating its new approach to kill terrorists within Pakistan. The message that has been sent is that no matter where you are in Pakistan, we will hit you. On this occasion, the Government said that we have gone after the head of the snake and not the foot soldiers.

One booked for bid to sell rented car

Mysuru, May 12 (MK&KS)- Metagalli Police have registered a case against a man on charges of attempting to sell a car which he had taken on rent.

The accused has been identified as N.P. Pradeep, a resident of Kallur Naganahalli village, Yelwal hobli in the taluk while the car owner, who has lodged a complaint is S. Varun, a resident of Hebbal in city.

In his complaint, Varun has stated that he had given his Innova Crysta (KA-05-AH-7489), which he had bought for Rs. 13.50 lakh, to Pradeep on rent. Varun alleged that Pradeep, who forged his signature on Form-29 and 30, got the vehicle transferred to his name, obtained a loan on the car besides attempting to sell the car to someone.

Varun, in his complaint, has urged the Police to take action against Pradeep and get back his vehicle.

Metagalli Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

101-year-old passes away

Nanjangud, May 12- Patel B.S. Mahadevappa (101), a resident of Bidaragodu in the taluk, passed away at his son-in-law late Advocate K.B. Jayadevappa's house Saturday.

Mahadevappa

He leaves behind daughter Rathnamma K.B. Jayadevappa, four sons, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Bidaragodu Saturday evening.

Obituary

Sharada Bai

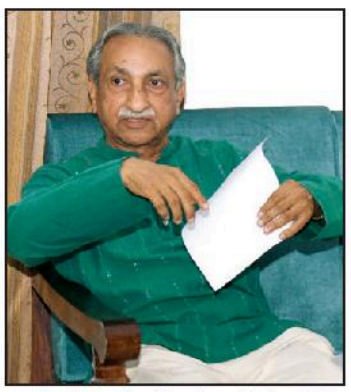
Mysuru, May 12- Sharada Bai (79), wife of late S. Haribhavu Shinde and a resident of Nazarbad in city, passed away this morning.

She leaves behind four children including former Director of MDCC Bank Prabhakar Shinde and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites will be performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill in city tomorrow (May 13) at 10 am.

Mysuru can be a model city for tree protection

Form Committee to identify heritage trees in city, celebrate them annually, says Senior Botanist



R. Natesh, Senior Botanist

Mysuru, May 12 (VNS)- The recent felling of 40 trees on Hyder Ali Road has outraged the citizens of Mysuru. In a bid to find solutions to stop further tree felling, Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) conducted an interaction session with Botanist and former Senior Adviser (Scientist-H), Department of Biotechnology, R. Natesh, at its premises in Yadavagiri last evening.

Natesh, who is also the author of the book 'Iconic Trees of India,' spoke about the need for conserving trees and the importance of trees in different religions and a plan of action for protecting them.

Through his several references, Natesh gave out several examples regarding the importance of trees in puranas and contributions of trees in the birth of a religion like Buddhism, where Buddha was enlightened under a tree, and Tirthankaras in Jainism being associated with one or other trees among others.

Khejarli massacre of 1730

Giving references about the trees being marked for felling in Dattagalli and Manandavadi Road in Mysuru, the noted botanist gave some suggestions which included bringing all stakeholders together, including scientists, environment activists, teachers, students, landscape artists, legal experts and others to create awareness about protecting the trees.

He also stressed the need for involving more women as they have been at the forefront of many struggles concerning the protection of trees for centuries, including the one to protect the Khejri trees during the 1730s at Khejarli in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan led by one Amruthadevi of the Bishnoi community, during which about 363 people had sacrificed their lives.

"People should be made aware of the importance of trees by organising events periodically and also with publicity through print, electronic media and social media," he said.

Among important suggestions to protect trees were organising 'Rakshasutra Andolan', where the protestors would tie a coloured thread around the trees that would keep everyone connected to the trees and make them responsible for protecting trees.

"There is a need to identify heritage trees in Mysuru and organise tree tourism to create awareness. Scientists should be invited to hold workshops and deliver talks on tree conservation as a measure to make Mysuru a model city for tree protection," he added.

Heritage Tree Registry

Natesh suggested that a Committee should be formed to identify heritage trees in the city, and an event to be held once a year to celebrate them. Unlike the conditions to declare a building as a heritage structure, Natesh said that for trees to be brought under the heritage tag, age should not be the only criterion.

Instead, along with the age, factors such as its importance, saplings being planted by eminent personalities and its unusual factors, among others, should be considered," he said. Natesh also mentioned that a separate registry should be maintained to keep a record of the heritage trees and a periodical review should be conducted.

Valuation of a tree

Natesh answered one of the questions posed by MGP Founding President Bhamy V. Shenoy concerning the valuation of a tree brought to the notice of the members present regarding the Supreme Court-appointed Five-Member Committee, which submitted a report on the valuation of a tree.

He said that the Committee, which was appointed by the then Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde to evaluate the true value of a tree in connection with a PIL challenging the West Bengal's Government's decision of cutting 356 trees to construct five railway overbridges costing Rs. 500 crore, value of a tree at Rs. 74,500 per year, multiplied by its lifespan.

Botanist R. Natesh delivering a special talk on conservation of trees during MGP monthly meeting held in city yesterday. Seen in the picture are MGP Founding President Bhamy V. Shenoy, MGP Members Maj. Gen. (retd.) S.G. Vombatkere, Ashvini Ranjan, MGP Working President Shobana Shambashiva and others.

"The valuation considered the factors such as oxygen production, biofertilizers and other environmental services," he said and added that the cutting of 40 trees on Hyder Ali Road was a huge loss. For instance, if the tree were about 50 years old, it could be valued at Rs. 74,500 multiplied by the number of years per tree. Each tree felled at Hyder Ali Road would be Rs. 37,25,000 and the total valuation of 40 trees would be Rs. 149,00,000," he added.

Natesh also disagreed with the idea of planting 100 saplings for cutting 10 trees. He said if the trees which are brought down are about 100 years old, the amount of oxygen produced by that particular tree could not be matched with newly planted saplings. People have to wait 100 years to reap the benefits of the trees.

Speaking about the relocation of the trees, Natesh expressed his apprehensions, stating that the chances of the tree's survival were less in India compared to other countries where it is being done effectively.

Citing the example of Hyde Park in London, where a few trees were relocated, Natesh said, there were dedicated people to look into the condition of the trees and to ensure they survived, but here it is the other way around.

MGP Working President Shobhana Shambashiva, Members Ashvini Ranjan, Maj. Gen. (retd.) S.G. Vombatkere, Prabha Nandish and others were present on the occasion.

Rotary Mysore Midtown Zeus CSR Award presented to Excel Empathy Foundation

D. Sudhanva, MD and CEO of Excelsoft Technologies and Trustee of Excel Empathy Foundation, who received Rotary Mysore Midtown Zeus CSR Award, seen with (standing from left) Rtn. Rakesh, Rotary Midtown Secretary Rtn. Elisar Milton, chief guest Nagaraja Gargeshwari (Chairman, CII and President, Automotive Axles), Rotary Midtown President Rtn. Kumaraswamy, Rtn. Abhilash Nair (MD, Zeus Biotech Pvt. Ltd.), Indira Nair (Director, Zeus Biotech) and Rtn. Naveen Chandra.

Mysuru, May 12- Rotary Mysore Midtown Zeus CSR Award was bestowed on Excel Empathy Foundation, a charity wing of Excelsoft Technologies, Mysuru.

The award was presented to D. Sudhanva, MD and CEO of Excelsoft Technologies and Trustee of Excel Empathy Foundation, by chief guest Nagaraj Gargeshwari, Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mysuru, at a ceremony held in city recently.

In his acceptance speech, Sudhanva said that they are only giving back towards community through charity wing and not for any awards and accolades.

The award is instituted by Zeus Biotech Pvt. Ltd., to recognise and honour the corporates giving back to society in various fields through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity in association with Rotary Mysore Midtown.

In 2022, the award was presented to NR Foundation, the philanthropic arm of NR Group.

'Buddha's preachings very much relevant today'

District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa flagging off a procession from Town Hall premises in city this morning as part of Buddha Jayanti celebrations. Picture right shows Dr. Kalyanasiri Bantheji of Vishwamaitri Buddha Vihara, Writer Dr. Rahmath Tarikere, Additional DC Dr. P. Shivaraju, former Mayor Purushotham and others offering tributes to the statue of Gautama Buddha at Kalamandira where the stage programme was held.

Mysuru, May 12 (BLU&DM)- Stating that Gautama Buddha's preachings is known worldwide for over 25 centuries, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Dr. P. Shivaraju said that Buddha Purnima is not just a festival, but a reminder of the profound teachings of Buddha, who dedicated his entire life to spreading the message of peace, enlightenment and compassion.

He was speaking at Bhagavan Buddha Jayanti-2025 organised jointly by the District Administration, Kannada and Culture Department and Bhagavan Buddha Jayanthothsava Samithi at Kalamandira on Hunsur Road here this morning.

Stressing on the need for everyone to follow Buddha's principles and honour his teachings of love, wisdom and non-violence, Dr. Shivaraju said that Buddha Purnima Day is celebrated in commemoration of the birth, enlightenment and death of Gautama Buddha. It is also a day of reflection, renewal and spiritual connection and honour of Buddha's preachings, he added.

Writer Dr. Rahmath Tarikere, in his speech, said that Buddha Purnima assumes special significance as it has come on a day when India and Pak have announced a ceasefire, driving away the looming dark clouds of war.

Noting that both Buddha and Emperor Ashoka were against wars, Dr. Rahmath Tarikere said that Buddha, Basavanna and Dr. Ambedkar always strived for building a casteless and classless society. But it is unfortunate that caste discrimination has never ended in the country despite the preachings of such great saints and leaders, he bemoaned.

Earlier, MLA T.S. Srivatsa inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. Dr. Kalyanasiri Bantheji of Vishwamaitri Buddha Vihara, Kannada and Culture Joint Director V.N. Mallikarjunaswamy, Assistant Director Dr. M.D. Sudarshan, former Mayor Purushotham and others were present.

Elsewhere in the city, many organisations celebrated the Jayanti at different venues, offering prayers to Lord Buddha.

Prior to the stage programme, a grand procession was taken out from Town Hall in the heart of the city to Kalamandira, which was flagged off by District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa.

Young Alumni Meet 3.0 and Soft Skill Club launched at JSS STU

Mysuru, May 12 (KS)- The Department of Training and Placement at JSS Science and Technology University (JSS STU) hosted the third edition of its Young Alumni Meet, alongside the inauguration of the Soft Skill Club, bringing together students, faculty and recent graduates for an inspiring day of career guidance and learning.

Addressing the gathering, Kewal Nadgir, Assistant Vice-President at JP Morgan Chase & Co., emphasised the evolving expectations of the corporate world post-COVID. "Companies now seek genuine problem solvers, not just button-pushers," he remarked.

Highlighting the need for continuous learning, Nadgir advised students to remain adaptable and proactive, stating, "AI should assist you, not replace you. Outsourcing your thinking today means outsourcing your future."

He also encouraged students to embrace real-world experiences, develop curiosity, and take smart risks to navigate today's competitive job landscape.

In his inaugural speech, Vice-Chancellor of JSS Science and Technology University Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar, reflected on the journey of the Young Alumni initiative.

"Three years ago, we set out to create a platform for meaningful interactions between students and recent alumni. The initiative has grown tremendously, with attendance doubling from 100 to 200 participants this year," he noted.

He expressed pride in the growing impact of the event and acknowledged Placement Officer M. Pradeep for his pivotal role.

Briefing about Soft Skill Club, the VC said that it aimed at helping students build strong communication, interpersonal and leadership skills. "Our students are bright and digitally fluent, but they often need direction. This Club, led by students and supported by alumni, is a step in that direction," he added.

Sudarshini Puttappa, Senior Manager - HR at Cognizant, shared professional insights into the importance of soft skills in career advancement.

Earlier, Training and Placement Officer M. Pradeep briefed about the objectives of the initiatives, reinforcing the University's commitment to holistic student development. He also mentioned that Soft Skill Club envisions creating a dynamic platform where students can engage in workshops, seminars, guest lectures and interactions. The Club is committed to enhancing employability, personal growth and professional development, thus preparing students to excel both personally and professionally.

India-Pak DGMO talks rescheduled

(Continued from page 1)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and all three Service Chiefs — General Upendra Dwivedi, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi and Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh attended.

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Intelligence Bureau (IB) Director Tapan Deka, and Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Ravi Sinha also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, several points were jotted down to be taken with the DGMO of Pakistan. The biggest point is to instruct Pak to ensure zero infiltration. No terror activity in the form of launch pads.

32 airports reopen

Meanwhile, the 32 airports across northern and north-western regions of India that were closed due to airspace restrictions in the wake of heightened tensions with Pakistan have reopened, said India's aviation regulator.

The closure was announced Saturday, three days after India began an anti-terror campaign, Operation Sindoor, which involved striking terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. These 32 airports included Srinagar and Amritsar.

The AAI also advised travellers to check flight status directly with the airlines and monitor their websites for regular updates.

Virat Kohli bids adieu to Test cricket

(Continued from page 1)

"I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for," Virat Kohli added.

The former skipper featured in 123 Test matches, amassing 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85. As captain, he led India in 68 Tests, recording 40 victories — the most by any Indian in the format.

Kohli enjoyed a prolific spell between 2016 and 2019, emerging as one of the most dominant batsmen of the era. Although his form waned in the early 2020s, he showed glimpses of resurgence in 2023. His final outing in whites came during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude — for the game, for the people I shared the field with and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way," Kohli said, signing off with a smile.

Coconut prices soar amid surge in tender coconut demand

Mysuru, May 12 (BLU&VNS)- The price of coconuts in Mysuru has surged sharply, making them significantly costlier than in previous years. However, traders and officials anticipate a correction in prices within the next 15 days.

Mysuru's daily requirement stands at around 80 to 100 tonnes of coconuts — roughly two lakh coconuts. Of this, approximately 50 tonnes are sourced from neighbouring districts in Tamil Nadu, including Coimbatore and Salem, while the remainder is procured locally.

At present, coconuts are being sold at Rs. 80 per kg in the open market, while those imported from Tamil Nadu are priced at Rs. 70 per kg. Just a few weeks ago, coconuts in Mysuru were available for Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per kg; the current rate of Rs. 40 per kg marks a steep rise.

Experts attribute this price hike primarily to the increased consumption of tender coconuts due to the intense summer heat. With temperatures soaring, residents are turning to tender coconuts — sold between Rs. 40 and Rs. 60 each — for natural hydration.

To meet this rising demand, farmers are harvesting coconuts earlier than usual, reducing the number of mature coconuts

reaching the market.

Adding to the supply crunch, large quantities of tender coconuts are being exported to cities like Mumbai, where they fetch as much as Rs. 150 a piece. In Karnataka, tender coconuts are typically harvested three to four times over three months, while Tamil Nadu sees four harvests in the same period. On average, every 50 coconut trees yield about 2,000 coconuts in the first season, followed by 1,500 in the second, 1,000 in the third and just 200-300 in the fourth.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, local coconut merchant Madhukar explained, "This is the first harvest season and most of the produce is reaching local markets. We expect prices to drop back to around Rs. 15 per kg soon, leading to a general reduction in market prices."

Rates at HOPCOMS affordable

Manjunath Angadi, Deputy Director of the Department of Horticulture, clarified that the spike in prices is not due to any disease affecting coconut trees.

"There has been no drop in supply due to disease. While tree infections do occur, we have been actively guiding farmers on prevention. The reduced availability of mature coconuts is solely due to increased demand for tender ones, which are more profitable for farmers," he said.

He added that the Horticulture Department is mitigating the price impact by selling coconuts at more affordable rates through HOPCOMS outlets compared to open markets.

MLA launches works at Nanjangud where minorities reside

Nanjangud, May 12- Nanjangud MLA Darshan Dhruvanarayan has said that the Government has sanctioned Rs. 5 crore for the roads and other development works in the areas across Nanjangud taluk where the minority communities live.

Development works of about Rs. 1.6 crore have been launched at Hullahalli, Haginavalu and Hallare roads where minorities reside. Thanking Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed for the grants after performing *guddali puja* for development works, MLA Darshan Dhruvanarayan said Zameer Ahmed has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5 crore from his Dept. for the development of roads out of which Rs.1.60 crore has been released in the first phase.

"To fulfil the demands of Hullahalli, Hallare and Haginavalu villagers, road development works worth Rs. 25 lakh each have been launched. Since Hullahalli is a big village, priority has been given to the development of its roads. Works connecting the Hura, Kadajatti and Jalahalli will be executed at a cost of Rs. 6 crore under Central Road Fund (CRF). In addition, an amount of Rs. 2 crore has been reserved for building a new PU College at Hullahalli and with additional grants, the college building will be completed in the near future," said the MLA.

Continuing, he said that apart from this, a Rs. 50 lakh grant under SCP-STP is in the process of calling tenders and the works will be launched soon. Road development works which provides connectivity to First Grade College, Government Hospital and Agriculture Department offices will also begin shortly.

The CM has released grants for road connectivity between Hullahalli-Nanjangud-Santhemaralli under K-Ship programme as announced in the State budget and the work will start soon, he added and concluded by saying that works at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh has been started for the extended development works of Adishakti Temple at Huchhagani village and road development works worth Rs. 30 lakh have been taken up in Debur village under SEP in the areas where Pourakarmikas and Handijogis reside.

Former MLA Kalale Keshavamurthy, Block Congress President Mahesh, State Minority Morcha General Secretary Anwar Ahmed and others were present.

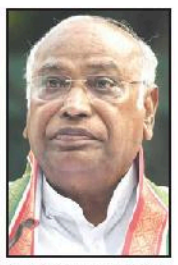
Opposition seeks all-party meeting, Parliament Session

New Delhi, May 12 (Agencies)- The Congress party has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the recent ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan.

Additionally, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge have written to the PM, requesting a Special Session of Parliament to deliberate on the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor and the US-announced ceasefire.

Rahul Gandhi emphasised the need for national discussion on these events, stating, "The people and their representatives must discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and the ceasefire, first announced by US President Trump. This will also be an opportunity to demonstrate our collective resolve to meet the challenges ahead."

Rahul Gandhi



Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress General Secretary in-Charge of Communications Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X, "Given the unprecedented announcements from Washington DC, there is now a need, more than ever before, for the PM to chair an all-party meeting and take political parties into confidence."

There is also now a need, more than ever before, for a Special Session of Parliament to discuss the events of the last 18 days, beginning with the brutal Pahalgam terror attack and the way forward, and to demonstrate a collective resolve, he said.

Inflation, workers' issues: SUCI to protest in Bengaluru on May 14

Mysuru, May 12 (MTY&TRR)- The Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) [SUCI(C)] will hold a massive protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on May 14, demanding that both Central and State Governments take immediate action to control inflation and address the growing issues faced by workers and farmers.

Announcing this at a press conference at Pathrakarthara Bhavan in the city yesterday, SUCI District Secretary B. Ravi said, "Thousands of people from across the State — including members of the farming community, working class and unorganised sectors — will take part in the protest. We expect a turnout of around 10,000 participants."

The protest will be addressed by SUCI Communist Polit Bureau Member Comrade K. Radhakrishna and State Secretariat Member Comrade Ramanjanappa Alballi. SUCI State Secretary K. Uma will preside over the event, Ravi added.

Criticising the Central Government, Ravi said, "There has been a continuous hike in the prices of cooking gas, petrol, diesel and other essential commodities, causing immense hardship to the common people. Citizens are left to shoulder the burden of education and healthcare costs by themselves. Meanwhile, the taxes collected from the public are benefiting corporates, big contractors, politicians and top officials, leading to worsening unemployment."

He also came down heavily on the State Government for failing to control inflation and address joblessness. "Unemployment is pushing the youth towards substance abuse, excessive mobile use and a life of illusion. Women are bearing the brunt of this crisis," Ravi said, demanding that both Governments take immediate steps to meet the pressing needs of farmers and workers.

SUCI(C) District Committee Members Chandrashekara Meti, V. Yashodhar, P.S. Sandhya, G.S. Seema and Sunil were present at the press conference.

Man missing

Mysuru, May 12 (KS)- A 65-year-old man, who left his house on May 4, has since gone missing.

The missing man is Doddatamma Nayaka, a resident of D. Salundi village in the taluk.

He is 5.5 ft. tall, oval faced, normal built and was wearing a white coloured full arm shirt at the time of going missing.

Those having any information about the missing man, may contact Jayapura Police Station on Ph: 0821-2595781.

Obituary

Alhaja Asmathunnisa

Mysuru, May 12 - Alhaja Asmathunnisa (90), wife of late Basheer Ahmed and a resident of No. 96, 2nd Main, Bannimantap C-Layout, passed away this morning in city.

She leaves behind four sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Masjid-e-Azam on Ashoka Road after Asar prayers this evening, followed by the burial at the Muslim Burial Grounds near Tipu Circle.

Trump Effect in Australian Polls

By Gouri Satya,
Sr. Journalist

I am in Australia during the country's recent general elections. Just across the street from where I am staying on Blackburn Road in Glen Waverley is the Office of Labour MP Dr. Carina Garland.

She represents the Division of Chisholm, part of Monash City in Melbourne. Glen Waverley is a highly sought-after suburb, known for its quality infrastructure, schools and connectivity.

Gouri Satya

Glen Waverley's infrastructure further drives its real estate boom, with housing prices surging over 200 percent. The area is well-connected, with Syndal Rail Station and the nearest bus stop just five minutes away.

Glen Waverley Secondary College, one of the most preferred schools in the region, is close to Glen Waverley Station, the next station after Syndal. Shops and amenities are within walking distance. Opposite Syndal Station is a Sri Lankan-Indian-Asian grocery store, the Elephant House.

The Glen Mall, frequented by the younger crowd, adds to the area's appeal. There are a few Indian restaurants. This easy access to transport, education, and multicultural businesses fuels rising property values.

Chisholm has an electorate of over 100,000, with a notably diverse population — around 30 percent are Chinese-Australians, the largest concentration in any Australian electorate. The suburb is also home to a large number of Sri Lankans, Koreans and Indians, including many Kannadigas.

Garland was re-elected in the just-concluded federal election, defeating Katie Allen of the Liberal Party. Interestingly, despite its strategic location, the MP's Office is usually quiet, with little visible footfall, unlike our crowded MP Offices.

Here, electioneering is quite different from the vibrant, noisy campaigns in India. It is subdued, relying heavily on electronic media, print coverage and signboards outlining candidates' performances and promises. Voting is conducted online, significantly reducing paper waste. Voting centres and postal vote options are also provided.

Labour won a convincing majority, securing 85 seats — well over the 76 needed to form the Government. The Liberal Party has managed 36 seats, while the Greens have drawn a blank, and others have taken 10.

Labour held a 55 percent share versus 45 percent for the Liberals — a swing of 2.8 percent in Labour's favour. Official vote counting won't conclude for days, but it's clear that the Labour government is set to dramatically increase its majority, with swings towards them in almost every area.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese retained his seat with a huge margin over the Greens candidate, Hannah Thomas. On the other hand, for Liberal leader Peter Dutton, it was a major shock. He lost the Queensland seat he had held for 24 years.

Anthony Albanese
Labour Party

Peter Dutton
Liberal Party

Office of Labour MP Dr. Carina Garland, with little visible footfall, unlike the crowded MP Offices in India.

Key election issues included the rising cost of living, particularly housing affordability and access to healthcare. The Coalition Liberals promised tax rebates of half on petrol, cheaper energy, support to first home buyers, and improvements to the public healthcare system. **But the 'Trump effect' played a big, disastrous part.**

Albanese assurances included wage growth, a 20 percent off on student debt, an average cut of tax rates by 2,500, 150 dollars off on power bills, cheaper medicines and stronger Medicare.

Liberals' leader Dutton was seen as Australia's Trump. His campaign — marked by proposals to cut jobs, end work-from-home flexibility and implement harsh immigration and public sector policies — was widely seen as too extreme.

Critics likened it to a "Trump-style" conservatism and Dutton's last-minute backflips only added to perceptions of inconsistency. It was described as an "awkward and inconsistent campaign." They rejected him and his proposals. They ousted him from Parliament.

Community sentiment echoed these concerns of the voters. **The Indian Link, a widely circulated community monthly, had conducted a pre-election survey among Indian Australians, who now form nearly 4 percent of Australia's population.**

The results showed 43.48 percent support for Labour, 27.33 percent for the Liberal Coalition, 12 percent for the Greens, and 7 percent for Independents. **A striking 70 percent backed Albanese as Prime Minister.**

The survey's headline read: "Steady as she goes — Voters say keep things as they are." That forecast has come true. Vote counting continues at a slow pace, but the trend is clear: Australia has chosen continuity and moderation over polarisation.

Camp: Blackburn Road
Glen Waverley
Melbourne, Australia

Indo-Pak tension: Harangi Dam shut for tourists

Madikeri, May 12- As India-Pakistan tension continues following India's 'Operation Sindoor' in retaliation to the terror attack by Pakistan-backed terrorists at Pahalgam recently, the Kodagu District authorities have shut down Harangi tourist spot near Kushalnagar.

The Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL) has put up a notice board at the entrance of the spot mentioning that the Harangi Dam has been indefinitely shut for public as a security measure for ensuring the safety of the Dam.

In the wake of summer holidays, the Harangi Dam has been witnessing a huge influx of domestic tourists from across the State and the country. However, they had to return disappointed as the spot was shut for public without any prior information.

The tourists, who arrived at the spot with a lot of expectations, are returning a disappointed lot as they are unaware about the sudden closure of the Dam for the public.

CNNL Officials said that Harangi Dam near Kushalnagar was closed for public following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's direction to enhance security at all tourist spots and shut them down as a security measure. Following the State Government directive, security has been heightened at Harangi Dam and other tourist spots in the vicinity. Accordingly, the Brindavan in front of the Dam and the Fountain have been temporarily closed for public, they said.

Kodagu hit by traffic jams during weekends

Siddapura (Kodagu), May 12- With tourists flocking the Hilly Kodagu district, popularly known as Kashmir of Karnataka, almost all roads leading to various tourist spots in the district are witnessing huge traffic jams these days, especially during weekends. The popular tourist spots in the district include Nisargadhama near Kushalnagar, Harangi Dam near Kushalnagar, Dubare Elephant Camp, Abbey Falls, Raja Seat at Madikeri, Talacauvery, the birth place of River Cauvery, Bhagamandala and Chiklihole Dam among others.

The tourist inflow to the district has only risen after the Pahalgam terror and the subsequent Indo-Pak tension as tourists, who had planned a trip to Kashmir during the summer season, are turning to Kodagu, which is popular for its coffee plantations, hilly terrains, lush greenery and forests to spend their holidays and make their trip memorable. Due to the tourist influx, many roads across the district are witnessing traffic jams, with a large number of vehicles carrying tourists arriving in the district.

Meanwhile, Kodagu is the 7th most searched tourist spot in the country in Google, it is learnt.

Durga Homa on Sri Ravishankar Guruji's birthday tomorrow

Mysuru, May 12- On the occasion of Sri Ravishankar Guruji's birthday, Art of Living Ashram, Mysuru, has organised Durga Homa tomorrow (May 13) at 10.30 am, as this homa is also to pray for the good of the society in the present tense situation.

Sri Ravishankar Guruji

Durga in Sanskrit means invincible. The synonym of DU is poverty, sufferings, evil habits and famine. The R refers to diseases and the GA destroyer of sins, injustice, non-believer, cruelty and laziness. Performing Durga Homa helps with removal of disputes, bestows physical & mental strength, gives valour, frees one from jealousy, gives patience and courage, protects from troubles.

For details, contact Mob: 94480-48488 or 98457-23350.

Mock Drill at KRS Dam tests emergency preparedness

Mysuru, May 12 (BCT)- The Mandya District Administration, in collaboration with multiple departments, conducted a large-scale mock drill at Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam last afternoon.

The drill, aimed at testing emergency response preparedness, included three distinct simulated scenarios — drowning rescue, fire emergency and a bomb blast response.

Scenario 1: Drowning Rescue Operation

The first simulation took place at the KRS boating point, where a mock situation of a boat capsizing was enacted. Upon receiving the alert at the control room, immediate messages were sent to all concerned departments.

The Fire and Emergency Services team spearheaded the rescue, deploying boats and lifesaving gear to retrieve individuals from the water. The Police Department ensured crowd control, clearing the way for fire trucks and ambulances to operate without obstruction. On-site medical assistance was provided by health officials and the injured were transported to hospitals for further care.

Scenario 2: Fire Emergency at Police Guest House

The second exercise involved a simulated fire at the Police Guest House. An emergency siren signalled the start of operations. Rescue teams swiftly responded, using specialised evacuation techniques to bring out trapped individuals, including the safe extraction of injured persons from the first floor. Medical teams administered immediate first aid at the scene.

Scenario 3: Bomb Blast Simulation

In the third drill, a mock bomb explosion was staged. Following the alert siren, a bomb disposal squad, supported by a canine unit, arrived on-site to inspect the area. Simultaneously, the Fire Department, Police and NCC Cadets coordinated rescue and evacuation efforts. First aid was administered to the injured by emergency medical teams.

DC Dr. Kumara, Zilla Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini, and SP Mallikarjun Baladandi visited the locations to oversee the drill. Addl. SP Thimmaiah, Fire Officer Raghavendra, Asst. Commissioner Shivamurthy, Regional Transport Officer Hemavathi and officials from various departments, along with NSS students and Home Guard personnel, actively participated in the exercise.

Addressing the participants after the conclusion of the drill, DC Dr. Kumara stressed the importance of seamless inter-departmental coordination in managing real-life emergencies. He noted that the mock exercises offered valuable insights into response mechanisms and highlighted areas for improvement.

Nodal officers were appointed to document and review the execution of the drills. Their observations will guide enhancements in emergency protocols and inter-agency coordination going forward.

Officials and volunteers from all participating departments were commended for their cooperation and swift action throughout the mock drill.

'Chinnara Mela' concludes at Rangayana

Mysuru, May 12 (SPN&DM)- Former University of Mysore faculty Prof. Kalachannegowda said that children theatre will provide a perfect platform for enhancing creativity among the minds of children.

He was speaking at the valedictory of the 4-day 'Baalya-Amoolya' children theatre festival organised as part of the annual 'Chinnara Mela' children summer camp at Vanaranga in Rangayana premises here on Saturday.

Noting that children these days seem to be focussed only on their academics throughout the year, Prof. Kalachannegowda said that this tendency has led to a general feeling that children are turning away from extracurricular activities, which is equally important at an young age. However, at this critical juncture, Rangayana has stepped in to provide a perfect platform for children to exhibit their inherent skills and talent and also enhance their creativity through learning of new things at the camp, he pointed out.

Lauding the efforts of parents to engage their children in meaningful and creative activities, Prof. Kalachannegowda said that the 'Chinnara Mela' got started 25 years ago when senior theatre personality C. Basavalingaiah headed Rangayana. Since, then this 'Chinnara Mela' has been gaining popularity across the country with each passing year, he maintained.

Ranga Samaja Member Dr. Rajappa Dalvai said that 'Chinnara Mela' has been successful in bringing out children thoughts in the form of theatre. It is a matter of joy that Rangayana has become a platform for such a creative activity, he added.

Kannada and Culture Director K.M. Gayathri said that the Children Theatre Fest during 'Chinnara Mela' has drawn national attraction for its creativity and new theatre experiments.

The 4-day Children Theatre Fest saw performance of a total of 12 plays of Kotiganahalli Ramaiah under the direction of senior artistes S. Ramu, K.C. Raghu and others. Senior writer Padmashri Ram, Rangayana Director Satish Tiptur, 'Chinnara Mela' Camp Director Anil Revoor, Rangayana Dy. Director Dr. M.D. Sudarshan, Kannada & Culture Joint Director V.N. Mallikarjunaswamy and others were present.

Children turn vendors at 'Makkala Santhe'

The children, who participated in 'Chinnara Mela,' the 27-day summer camp organised by Rangayana Mysuru that concluded on Saturday, turned vendors at 'Makkala Santhe' (shandy) at Rangayana premises yesterday. The children learnt the nuances of doing business and how to handle it by selling vegetables, fruits, greens, eatables, toys, decorative and other items.

WORD OF THE DAY

Uncanny

Pronunciation: un-KAN-ee (Adjective)
Meaning: Uncanny is typically used to describe something that is strange or unusual in a way that is surprising or difficult to understand. It can also describe something that seems to have a supernatural character or origin.
Origin: Uncanny describes that which unsettles us, such as disquieting observations, or mysterious situations and circumstances. Strip the word of its prefix, though, and you're left with canny, a word that can be used as a synonym for clever and prudent. While canny and uncanny don't appear to be antonyms, they both come from an early Scots word canny meaning "free from risk; wise, prudent, cautious." And in Scots, canny has for centuries had a secondary meaning more similar to that of its mysterious cousin: the Oxford English Dictionary defines a sense of the word used chiefly in negative constructions (example, "not canny") to describe what is not safe to be involved with, or more broadly, what is not in accordance with what is right or natural, as in "the idea is not canny." Rather uncanny.
Example: "... as Nelson Moultrie walked through the cemetery and observed trees growing in ways that resemble the shapes of people, like one that bore an uncanny resemblance to a pair of legs, she said she's already felt the presence of the people buried there." — Laura Liebman, The Post & Courier (Charleston, South Carolina), 21 Mar. 2025.

THE ODD WORD

Finifugal

Afraid of finishing anything.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Gilding the Lily

Meaning: The phrase 'Gilding the Lily' indicates that something has been unnecessarily decorated or over-embellished.
Origin: Some scholars believe that Shakespeare came up with the term 'Gild the Lily,' and that he did mention 'painting the lily' in his 1595 work, King John. The term 'paint the lily' was used again in the 19th century, meaning the same as 'Gild the Lily.' The Newark Daily Advocate was among the first ever to put 'Gild the Lily' in print, apparently re-quoting Shakespeare: "One may gild the lily and paint the rose, but to convey by words only an adequate idea of the hats and bonnets now exhibited absolutely passes human ability."
Example: "You don't need to wear so much makeup; it's just gilding the lily."

QUOTE BOX

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.

—William Makepeace Thackeray

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

DAMNPRAISE

Answer: Damn with faint praise.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

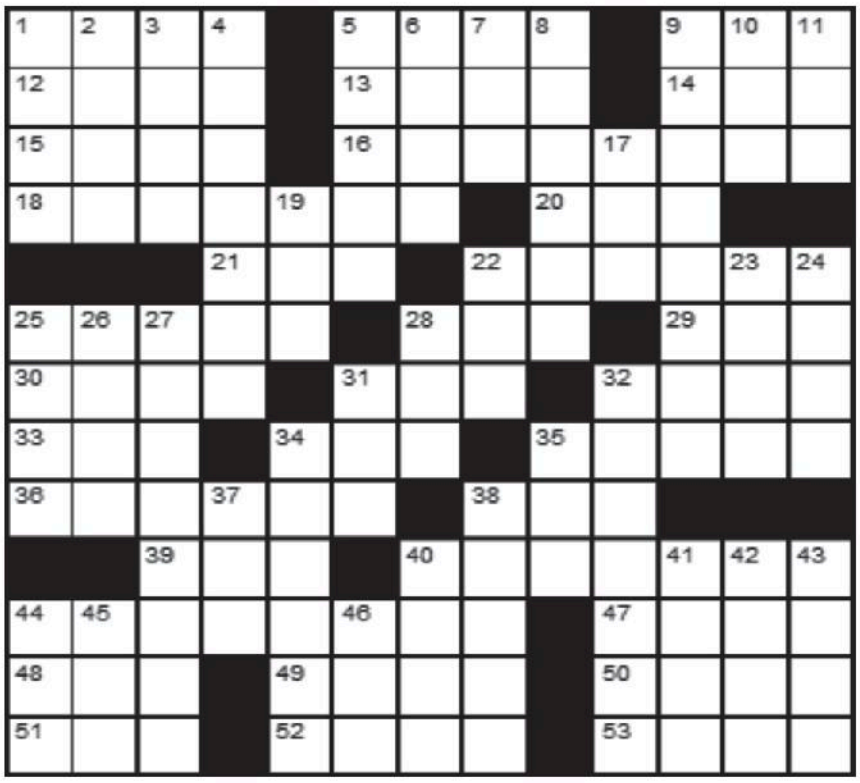
1 Tie securely
5 Vegetables or mineral liquids
9 __ Devi, alias Tun Tun?
12 Alaskan city - "omen" anagram?
13 Specification in short
14 U.S. Govt. Uncle ___
15 Change of Govt. : coup d'____
16 Politeness
18 Part of a missile
20 Our air-force in short
21 Musical aptitude
22 Unexpected
25 Open and obvious
28 BSE alternative for share traders
29 Town in Ladakh
30 Double digits
31 Watch pocket
32 In addition
33 Hours, in short
34 Female pig
35 A leading citizen
36 Asterix's best friend
38 Search and Rescue
39 Master of Science in Linguistics, deg.
40 Hewed
44 Surrounding atmosphere
47 Verdi opera
48 Come together
49 Metal spike
50 Sulphuric for one, nitric for another?
51 French season
52 Thank God It's Friday, acronym
53 Turns informer; squeals

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

T	E	A	L	■	R	M	S	■	S	C	A	B
I	D	E	A	L	I	S	T	■	A	H	R	S
P	O	R	T	A	B	L	E	■	M	I	C	E
■	■	■	T	D	S	■	E	P	O	C	H	S
C	O	V	E	Y	■	C	P	A	S	■	■	■
D	E	E	R	■	O	R	L	E	A	N	S	■
U	N	I	■	S	P	I	E	S	■	E	A	T
■	E	N	D	L	E	S	S	■	A	L	T	A
■	■	■	E	A	R	P	■	M	D	L	I	V
B	O	D	E	G	A	■	B	U	D	■	■	■
A	T	O	P	■	T	A	E	N	I	O	I	D
T	O	O	L	■	E	N	R	I	C	H	E	D
A	E	R	Y	■	D	U	G	■	T	O	R	T

DOWN

1 Was familiar with
2 ___ bene: note well; take notice?
3 Mr Abdullah of J&K
4 Ties up
5 Academy award
6 Apple's portable music player
7 A monetary unit of Romania?
8 Old letter-writer
9 Helpfully or serviceably
10 Pas' mates
11 Singer Winehouse of "Rehab" fame
17 A thick, dark oily liquid
19 Have a meal
22 Acc. Standards Board
23 Mexican coin
24 Norse thunder-god
25 Roman emperor - "hoot" anagram?
26 Action word
27 Group; outfit
28 Immediately
31 Hound's prey?
32 Guru Dutt's 1954 production (3,4)
34 Mum
35 Ex-Chinese Chairman?
37 Large Scale Integration, abbr.
38 A lateral item in a book-case
40 202 in Roman numerals
41 Unit of type size?
42 Prepare for press
43 Some parents
44 Grow old
45 Came across
46 Bother persistently with trivial complaints



SUDOKU

		2			9			
7				1		9		
	9	4			2			
5					7			
	3	6	9		8	4	5	
			3					1
			8			7	2	
		8		9				4
			7			5		

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	9	6	5	3	8	2	4
3	5	8	1	2	4	9	6	7
6	4	2	8	7	9	5	3	1
2	1	4	9	3	5	6	7	8
8	6	7	4	1	2	3	9	5
9	3	5	7	6	8	4	1	2
7	8	1	3	4	6	2	5	9
4	2	3	5	9	7	1	8	6
5	9	6	2	8	1	7	4	3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

WM WZ UPPGP BNGYU FTWVT YUUAZ MTU ZOKKGPM

GE RGCUPYJUYM. MPOMT VBY ZMBYA HX WMZUNE.

TODAY'S CLUE: M EQUALS T

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: To be witty is not enough. One must possess sufficient wit to avoid having too much of it.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

Padma Theatre **Ph: 2521923**
Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2 (K) - 4 Shows

Lido Theatre **Ph: 2420885**
Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2 (K) - 4 Shows

Prabha Theatre **Mob: 98454-14691**
Bhagiratha (K) - 4 Shows

Woodlands Theatre **Ph: 2422871**
HIT: The Third Case (K) - 2 Shows; *HIT: The Third Case (Te)* - 2 Shows

Mahadeshwara Theatre **Mob: 99008-20093**
Retro (K) - 4 Shows

Sangam Theatre **Ph: 2520494**
Retro (Ta) - 4 Shows

Gayathri Theatre **Ph: 2443568**
Suthradaari (Ta) - 4 Shows

Rajkamal Theatre **Ph: 2423554**
Tourist Family (Ta) - 4 Shows

Balaji Theatre **Mob: 98863-25207**
The Bhootnii (H) - 4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Hit: The Third Case (Te)	(S-1)	10.05 am, 7 pm
	(S-4)	4.05 pm, 10.15 pm
Retro (Ta)	(S-1)	1.15 pm
Shinchan: Our Dinosaur Diary (Japanese)	(S-1)	4.40 pm
Sarkeet (Ma)	(S-1)	10.10 pm
Thunderbolts (E-3D)	(S-2)	10.20 am
Thudarum (Ta)	(S-2)	1 pm
Thudarum (Ma)	(S-2)	10.15 pm; (S-4) 10 am
Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2 (K)	(S-2)	4.20 pm, 7.20 pm
Kaliyugam (Ta)	(S-3)	11 am
Tourist Family (Ta)	(S-3)	1.35 pm
Subham (Te)	(S-3)	4.30 pm
Padakkalam (Ma)	(S-3)	7.15 pm
Prince and Family (Ma)	(S-3)	9.55 pm
Suthradaari (K)	(S-4)	1.20 pm
Raid 2 (H)	(S-4)	7.15 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2 (K)	:	1.20 pm, 7 pm
Padakkalam (Ma)	:	6.50 pm
Tourist Family (Ta)	:	6.50 pm, 9.15 pm
Thudarum (Ma)	:	7 pm, 9.15 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Ph: 0821-230 0402

Raid 2 (H)	:	10.20 am
HIT: The Third Case (Te)	:	10.50 am, 1.45 pm, 7.20 pm
#Single (Te)	:	11 am, 10.15 pm
Tourist Family (Ta)	:	11.15 am, 4.15 pm, 7.35 pm
Prince and Family (Ma)	:	11.40 am, 3.55 pm, 9.50 pm
Sarkeet (Ma)	:	1.15 pm
Shinchan: Our Dinosaur Diary (H)	:	1.55 pm
Shinchan: Our Dinosaur Diary (Japanese)	:	6.55 pm
Thunderbolts (E-3D)*	:	2 pm, 4.40 pm
Padakkalam (Ma)	:	2.30 pm, 10 pm
Subham (Te)	:	4.55 pm
Naale Rajaa Koli Majaa (K)	:	5.10 pm
There Will Be Blood (E)	:	6.45 pm
Daskath (K)	:	7.15 pm
Retro (Ta)	:	9.15 pm
Thudarum (Ma)	:	10.30 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 88009 00009

HIT: The Third Case (Te)	:	9.25 am, 12.35 pm, 3.50 pm, 7 pm, 10.10 pm
Raid 2 (H)	:	10.05 am, 1 pm, 3.55 pm, 6.20 pm, 9.35 pm
Tourist Family (Ta)	:	10.20 am, 3.30 pm, 9.15 pm
Thudarum (Ma)	:	12.05 pm, 6.40 pm
Suthradaari (K)	:	1.05 pm, 6.50 pm
#Single (Te)	:	3.50 pm, 10.05 pm

EPFO holds District Outreach programme

Mysuru, May 12- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office, Mysuru, conducted the District Outreach programme under Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 at Nanjangud Industries Association (NIA) building, next to Fire Brigade Office, KIADB Industrial Area, Nanjangud, recently.

Dr. Ashwin Basappa, Insurance Medical Officer, ESIC Dispensary, was the chief guest.

B.S. Shruthi, Enforcement Officer/DNO, S. Sampath Kumar, DPA, R. Manjunath, Sr. SSA of EPFO, Regional Office Mysuru and M. Vijaya Lakshmi, SSO (Branch Manager), ESIC, have redressed the grievance of stakeholders and properly managed the event.

EPFO stakeholders visited the venue with their queries and grievances, which were solved immediately.

To bridge the gap between EPFO and stakeholders, EPFO has started the initiative and under the supervision of Vinit Kumar, Regional PF Commissioner-I, Regional Office, Mysuru team of officials visits different locations in various districts to interact and educate members/ employers and pensioners. RO-Mysuru is taking all possible steps to extend the benefits to stakeholders, according to a press release from the Regional PF Commissioner-I, EPFO Regional Office, Mysuru.

EVENTS TODAY (MAY 12)

- **Builders' Association of India (BAI), Mysore Centre, Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI) and Mysore Builders' Charitable Trust (MBCT):** MyRealty 2025, Mega Property Expo, Bharat Scouts and Guides Grounds, **up to 8.30 pm.**
- **Suttur Mutt, Mysuru:** Monthly Moonlight Music Concert, violin concert by Vidwan Dr. Mysore Manjunath, Vid. Sumanth Manjunath and Malavi Manjunath, accompanied by Vid. Neyveli Venkatesh on mridanga and Vid. Vazhappally R Krishnakumar on ghata, Mutt premises, foot of Chamundi Hill, **6 pm.**
- **Adi Karnataka Mahasamsthe and various organisations:** Buddha Jayanti celebrations, Dr. Kalyanasiri Bhanteji graces the occasion, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa presides, MP Sunil Bose will be present, High Court Advocate N.B. Shivarudrappa main speaker, Vishwa Mythri Buddha Vihar, Ashoka Circle, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa Seva Pratishtana:** 'Tingala Tilivu' lecture programme, Bhajans by members of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa Seva Pratishtana, **6 pm;** Teacher-Writer-Speaker Kiran Sidlehalli delivers lecture on 'Kannada Sahityadalli Muktakagalu,' Paramahamsa Dhyana Kendra, Ramakrishna Circle Ground Floor, **6.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (MAY 13)

- **Kadamba Ranga Vedike, Mysuru:** Theatre artiste and folk scholar U.S. Ramanna's photographs exhibition and honouring programme, folk scholar Dr. D.K. Rajendra inaugurates, theatre director H.S. Umesh introduces Ramanna, journalist Amshi Prasanna Kumar, Vedike President Rajashekar Kadamba and Sri Kalaniketana School of Arts Principal K.C. Mahadeva Shetty will be present, Sri Kalaniketana Art Gallery, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, **11 am.**
- **CSIR-CFTRI:** National Technology Day 2025, TiE Mysuru Chapter President Bhaskar Kalale chief guest, CFTRI Director Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh presides, Cheluvamba Hall, CSIR-CFTRI premises, **3.15 pm.**
- **Music Concert:** Solo sitar recital by Pandit Sayan Ghosh, a young, multi-talented artiste from Kolkata, Mysore Vasudevacharya's residence, near Agrahara, **5 pm to 7 pm.**

INOX LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 78299-99465

Piku (H)	:	10 am, 7.50 pm
Raid 2 (H)	:	10.20 am, 1.15 pm, 7.25 pm
Thudarum (Ma)	:	10.20 am, 10.30 pm
HIT: The Third Case (Te)	:	10.35 am, 1.35 pm, 4.10 pm 10.10 pm, 10.20 pm
HIT: The Third Case (K)	:	1.50 pm
Retro (Ta)	:	12.35 pm
#Single (Te)	:	4 pm, 9.50 pm
Suthradaari (K)	:	4.50 pm
Thunderbolts (E)*	:	5.05 pm
Yuddhakaanda Chapter 2 (K)	:	6.35 pm
Subham (Te)	:	7.30 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Ph: 0821-4283555

HIT: The Third Case (K)	:	9.50 am, 7.15 pm
HIT: The Third Case (Te)	:	1.05 pm, 3.40 pm, 10.30 pm
#Single (Te)	:	10 am, 4.20 pm
Raid 2 (H)	:	10.35 am, 12.45 pm, 4.20 pm, 7.05 pm, 10 pm
Preeti Prema Panganaama (K)	:	11.40 am
Prince and Family (Ma)	:	1.30 pm
Vicky (K)	:	2.15 pm
Daskath (K)	:	5.10 pm
Thudarum (Ma)	:	6.55 pm
Sarkeet (Ma)	:	7.40 pm
Retro (Ta)	:	10.10 pm
Padakkalam (Ma)	:	10.20 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

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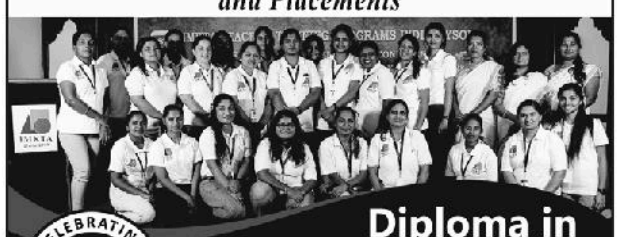
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